



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Sylvia Vanderspek
Chief, Air Quality Planning Branch
Air Quality Planning and Science Division
California Air Resources Board
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812

Dear Chief Vanderspek:

This letter provides a response to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD) exceptional event (EE) Initial Notification of Intent (INI) submittal, emailed April 25, 2022, regarding exclusion of particulate matter 2.5 microns or less (PM_{2.5}) data affected by EEs. The INI submittal stated that emissions from fireworks and wildfires in 2020 and 2021 caused exceedances of the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), spanning several dates in July, August, September, and October of 2020, and July, August, and September of 2021 at the Yuba City-Almond monitoring site (AQS ID: 06-101-0003) within the Yuba City-Marysville Maintenance Area for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS.

Based on discussions with CARB and FRAQMD, the EPA understands that CARB anticipates submitting a second 10-year PM_{2.5} Maintenance Plan (Plan) for the area based on an attaining 2021 design value, which would rely on exclusion of some of the data identified in the INI submittal. The EPA has been in communication with CARB regarding the specific events and demonstration(s). We request formal submittal of the demonstration(s) for the events necessary to achieve an attaining 2021 design value for the area to the EPA no later than March 31, 2023. This is based on the current projected timing of the Plan. Should the Plan timing change, the EE submittal timing should be revisited as well. Please note that CARB may submit the EE demonstration(s) to the EPA concurrent with its initiation of the public comment period, provided CARB subsequently submits all public comments received and CARB's responses thereto.

The EPA is committed to providing timely guidance and input to CARB and FRAQMD should any questions arise as you work toward submitting the demonstrations by the above deadlines. We appreciate the coordination to date and look forward to continued communication throughout the development and submittal of these demonstrations. If you have any questions regarding this determination, please feel free to contact me at (415) 972-3183, Gwen Yoshimura at (415) 947-

4134, or my staff lead, Shaye Hong, at (415) 947-4104. We appreciate your partnership in working through implementation of the Exceptional Events Rule.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth J. Adams
Director, Air and Radiation Division

cc (via email): Michael Benjamin, CARB
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